

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

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AMCONSUL MUNICH

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AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 11380

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, PO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS ON PORTUGAL

REF: MOSCOW 11220

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1. SUMMARY. THOUGH SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF PORTUGAL REMAINS

RESTRAINED AND CAUTIOUS, MOSCOW'S CONCERN OVER THE TREND OF EVENTS THERE IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT. RELYING PRIMARILY ON QUOTES FROM FOREIGN AND PORTUGUESE PRESS AND SELECTIVE EDITING OF PCP STATEMENTS, MOSCOW SEEMS TO BE URGING THE AFM AND THE PCP TO BROADEN THEIR POWER BASE BEFORE THEY TOPPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS PRODUCED LITTLE IN THE WAY OF INDEPENDENT COMMENTARY ON EVENTS IN PORTUGAL (THOUGH THEY HAVE BEEN LESS HESITANT ON ATTACKING ALLEGED WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS--SEE PARA FIVE BELOW). USING SELECTED QUOTES FROM THE PORTUGUESE PRESS AND PCP STATEMENTS, IT HAS SHARPLY ATTACKED THE ANTUNES DOCUMENT, EVEN ALLOWING ITSELF TO MAKE THE INDEPENDENT COMMENT (PRAVDA AUGUST 10 WEEKLY REVIEW) THAT THE DOCUMENT IS CONNECTED WITH "EFFORTS BY CERTAIN CIRCLES TO INTERFERE WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS, INCREASE UNCERTAINTY IN THE COUNTRY, AND CLEAR THE WAY FOR A TAKE-OVER BY REACTIONARY FORCES".

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, PRAVDA' SOLE INDEPENDENT COMMENT HAS BEEN THAT ITS FORMATION IS "AN IMPORTANT STEP TOWARD OVERCOMING A DIFFICULT STEP FOR THE REVOLUTION". THOUGH SELECTIVE EDITING AND PUBLICATION OF PCP STATEMENTS, HOWEVER, IT HAS MADE ITS OWN LINE CLEAR. WHILE THE LINE DOES NOT APPEAR TO DIFFER MARKEDLY FROM THAT OF THE PCP, IT SEEMS TO PLACE MORE EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR THE PCP-- AND THE AFM--TO BROADEN ITS POWER BASE AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. PRAVDA ON AUGUST 11 EVEN CALLED FOR PARTICIPATION BY "REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL POLITICAL ORIENTATIONS" IN AN EFFORT TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF COUNTERREVOLUTION. PRAVDA HAS ALSO REPLAYED CUNHAL AND PCP STATEMENTS ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN SUCH A WAY THAT, WHILE WELCOMING FORMATION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, THEY HAVE GIVEN NEARLY EQUAL EMPHASIS TO PCP STATEMENT THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT BY ITSELF DOES NOT SOLVE ALL PROBLEMS. THEY ALSO UNDERLINE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT DOES NOT EXCLUDE CHANGES AND RESTRUCTURING IN ORDER TO BROADEN THE "POLITICAL-SOCIAL BASE" OF THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT. TO ENSURE THAT THERE CAN BE NO MINUNDERSTANDING ON HOW "BROAD" THIS BASE CAN BE, HOWEVER, PRAVDA HAS ALSO REPLAYED PCP WARNINGS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MUST CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUE TO VIEW THINGS FROM A "REVOLUTIONARY PERSPECTIVE" AND NOT ENDANGER REVOLUTIONARY GAINS SO FAR ACHIEVED.

4. THE SOVIET PRESS HAS BEEN LESS CAUTIOUS IN CASTIGATING THE WEST FOR ITS ALLEGED ROLE IN PORTUGAL. PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW AUGUST 10 AGAIN PICKED UP THE LINE (REFTEL) THAT EC REFUSAL TO AID PORTUGAL UNTIL IT MOVED BACK ONTO THE PATH OF PLURALIST DEMOCRACY, AND WEST EUROPEAN SOCIAL DEMOCTATIC AID

TO THE PSP, CONSTITUTE VIOLATIONS OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND ITS
PROHIBITION OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER
STATES. PRAVDA AUGUST 11 CARRIED A SHORT ITEM ON A LETTER
FROM PHILIP AGEE PUBLISHED IN DAILY WORLD ALLEGING CIA ACTIVITY
IN PORTUGAL AND EFFORTS BY U.S. MILITARY THERE TO SPLIT THE
AFM. AND IZVESTIYA ON AUGUST 9 WARNED AGAINST UNDEFINED
"ASSISTANCE FROM OUTSIDE "TO PORTUGUESE REACTIONARY FORCES.
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